

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, July 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, July 23, 2015 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:31p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek, Diane Boyd, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther, Gary Hammers

Staff present: Director of Parks & Recreation Gary Scott, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary Susan Mathews

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Luther moved to approve the agenda. Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No items.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2015 Commission meeting

Luther asked staff to review Item 5A. and consider rewriting for clarity. She also observed a misspelling in 5B. where “Hanson” should be spelled “Hansen”. Scott added that item 5A. was written in such a way to capture ideas provided by everyone. He asked if having it rewritten in full sentences would help.

Luther responded that full sentences might help and would provide context for the historical record.

Hammers moved to approve the minutes as amended. Luther seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

On Item 4A. Discussion – Temporary Public Art Display in WDM

Kenworthy stated that at last month’s meeting the possibility of borrowing a piece of art from the Pappajohn’s sculpture collection was discussed. Luther contacted Jeff Fleming at the Des Moines Art Center. Fleming’s response was that all large outdoor pieces from the collection have been donated to the Des Moines Art Center and are on display at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Luther also learned that other pieces in their personal collection are not outdoor pieces and if borrowed, would require on-site security and insurance. The Commission expressed that while it was not feasible at this time, they appreciated Luther exploring the possibility.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Approval of Professional Services Contract – Forecast Public Art

Scott provided a copy of the professional services agreement as reviewed by the City Attorney. He stated that during a phone conference with Jack Becker the scope of work was refined to include three trips to West Des Moines. Becker’s first visit will be to meet with the selection committee, provide a public arts presentation and take a tour of WDM. Becker will then write the RFQ and distribute it to artists he has chosen who fit the committee’s pre-determined criteria. Scott added that Becker recommends pursuing regional artists based on the budget. Becker’s second visit will be to bring to the selection committee 10 artists willing to submit concepts. Scott shared that they discussed narrowing the 10 artists down and having three submit concepts as a way to make the proposed art part of the selection process. Becker’s third visit will be with the three artists and will include meetings with the selection committee, the public and other stakeholders. Hammers asked for clarification on the terms of the contract. Scott confirmed the hourly contract is not to exceed \$10,000 with reimbursable expenses not to

exceed \$3,000. Hammers inquired if there would be criteria or a checklist to provide documentation for the selection committee when narrowing down the pool of artists. Scott responded that Becker will work to pre-qualify the artists using the criteria then, to some extent, it will be a subjective decision based on the art the committee likes. Scott added that Becker recommends narrowing down the potential sites to three.

Hammers moved to approve the Recommendation to City Council to Approve the Professional Services Contract with Forecast Public Art. Crane seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen reported on the various methods that WDM Recreation Coordinator Allison Ullestad has used to distribute the Call for Artists for the 2016 Art on the Campus. The Commission expressed appreciation for staff's work on the project. Hansen also shared a binder of conference photos that is available for anyone who is interested. Kenworthy inquired about the application due date. Scott responded that applications are due August 28. Luther complimented Hansen on the Jeff Boshart C3-PA Camp information in the newest program guide. Luther also offered congratulations to Crane who was recently named the Director of Advancement for the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.

On Item 6B. Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott provided a tentative calendar through the end of the year with Public Arts related items, deadlines and meetings. Scott suggested using the regularly scheduled meeting time on Thursday, August 27, to setup a booth at the Valley Junction Farmers Market. The Commission also discussed having a booth at the Valley Junction Fall Art and Upcycle Market on Sunday, September 20. Kenworthy suggested that both would be great public relations and marketing opportunities to gain community awareness about the work the Commission is doing. There was a consensus among members to pursue having booths at both events. The Communications Committee will take the lead in planning both events. Involvement at Illumifest was also discussed. The Commission expressed willingness to be available on a support basis to potentially provide posters and brochures at the Parks & Recreation information table. Kenworthy asked that staff add key dates in the permanent piece selection process to the calendar, once dates are available. Scott stated that he and Kenworthy are working to craft a message for Commission members to cover with the Mayor and City Council members. Scott informed the Board that an artist contacted the City who is interested in coming to learn about the community and then writing stories that become vinyl window art. Scott suggested it be considered for a special event in 2016. Scott will email Commission members the artist information and website for review. Scott stated that the Community Service Committee met and discussed ideas. He added that the next meeting will be an official brainstorming session to narrow down the options. Crane added that water quality/call to action or diversity/awareness were the primary considerations. Sedlacek asked for clarification from the Public Arts Master plan if this would be the second large project for the year. Scott responded that the Commission can choose to make the project as simple or as complex as they would like. Hammers suggested speaking with Public Works if the water quality track is chosen. Scott shared that the next Communications Committee meeting will be at noon on Tuesday, August 11.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Kenworthy asked if others were planning to attend the Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus. Luther responded that she is registered. Boyd added that she may attend certain sessions. Scott and Hansen declined attending due to the political nature of the event but encouraged any Commission members interested to attend.

On Item 8. Receive, File and/or Refer

A. Americans for the Arts Conference Synopsis from Commissioners

Hammers moved to adjourn. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Diane Boyd
Commission Secretary